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"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

For once the editor went to church and heard someone else preach. On the Sunday following the outbreak of war, he heard our Moderator, Rev. V. V. Loper, and while listening he thought of the pastors in all of our Congregational churches at that very hour trying to interpret to their people the Gospel of Christ in the terrible days that have come upon us. A printed copy of our Moderator's sermon was sent to all of our Northern California pastors with the invitation to send to Pacific some of their own thoughts. Limitations of space required serious abbreviation. Pastors will forgive if some of their most important points have been omitted. The editor is only human. Some of those who responded were interventionists, others non-interventionists, and still others outright pacifists, before the war, but there is the one recurring theme, "We must not hate and we will not suffer the bond of fellowship to be broken."

By REV. VERE V. LOPER
First Church, Berkeley

I confess that participation in war is sin. I am convinced that failure to participate in war, when so many Christian values in home, church, state, and world can be protected only by force, is even more serious sin.

I cannot, however, associate God with the central aspects of this war, except in terms of His judgment. After the last world conflict General O'Ryan said that he might go to war again but he would not pretend to take Jesus Christ with him. I join him in such words. We turned against God's will, along with other nations, in unwise peace treaties, in selfish national isolation, in precious opportunities for peace ignored. We got ourselves into this mess, and it is the manly course to refuse to go running home to a Heavenly Father to ask Him to save us from our folly. Values are at stake in this war in which God is concerned, but we cannot identify our National Cause as a whole with God's will. I will in prayer take soldiers as individuals into God's presence, but I will not ask God to bless war.

Nor will I turn this church into a recruiting station. A place of calm is needed in this mad world, and the church should be such a place. I will not preach hate from this pulpit. Lincoln was commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States. I purpose to read and re-read his life and words, that I may learn the secret of a statesman who could prosecute a war in a spirit "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

My patriotism goes to the very depths of my life. As your minister I will do everything in my power to make this church a source of strength to all that is good in the United States.

A Christian should be marked today, I feel, by his sense of national humility. The United States might have saved the world through peaceful processes after the last conflict. We failed, and now we are compelled to save ourselves through the bloody path of war. Sadly as we were prepared for the last war, we were still more sadly prepared for the last peace. From the very beginning of our participation in this war American Christians must join British Christians in studying and working for the peace to follow.

We shall see that the church carries forward its usual basic program. The world needs the message of the church as it has never needed it, and we will keep out the sign, "Worship as usual." In days to come minority groups may be denied civil liberties; these minority groups must be given our support, that the very liberties for which we fight are kept alive. We must endeavor to see that racial groups who are loyal Americans do not suffer because their ancestors came from a country with which we are now at war.

We will have room at our altar for the soldier and the conscientious objector.

Feelings will run high at times. But we shall strive to maintain this section of the "body of Christ" as a vital, glowing, loving fellowship with our Master at the center of it.

By REV. ROBERT W. INGLIS
Plymouth Church, Oakland

The nations of the world have declared war, but the church has not, must not declare war. As the need for a faith like that of Christ becomes more difficult and more necessary for the world, our task as Christians and as a church becomes more exalted and more compelling.

The church should keep right on. The things which it does as a church, such as the worship of God, the religious education of the children, the study of current ethical problems, the ministry to the sick and bereaved, the winning of men and women to the higher allegiance of Christ, the development of comradeship and fellowship around the ideals of Christ—these are the very things that men need most now.

Obviously the wisdom of men has turned to be folly. Only the foolishness of Christ provides any hope. We will be tempted to put our faith in men, in human institutions, in chariots and machines. The church must stand through the fire to call men back to the righteousness and justice and love of God in whom there is hope.

In conjunction with the major task, certain responsibilities flow from it. One of them is to protect the people from self-righteousness. This responsibility grows out of the exaltation of God above ourselves. Much injustice is based, not upon personal meanness, but upon the doctrine that "I" am above reproach. Beware of a king, a church, or a country that can do no wrong. Only as nations, including our own, are humble and repent and follow a new way is there hope that our children's children will not suffer the agonies of this barbarism.

It is the duty of the church not to let America forget that this war was inevitable the day the exclusion act was passed by the United States Congress (unless we had repented of this act, which we never did) and that that is only a sample of the many contributions that we American citizens have made to this unhappy occasion.

We Christians must devise ways of holding the world together. We can hold the world together with our prayers; we can hold it together by keeping alive the universal faith in Christ, that God is the God of all men and that all are brothers.

From REV. ELMER W. BENEDICT, Pittsburg: "My text was, 'When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.' Isaiah 59:19.

"The spiritual forces that we need to mobilize are: (1) The invisible forces of faith, hope, and courage; (2) The imponderable forces of human strength and human influence; (3) The invincible forces of truth, beauty, and goodness.

"Also, we need to find some answer to the questions of (1) Human life and destiny; (2) the spiritual interpretation in the world in which we live; (3) the possibility of believing in God at all in such a world as this; (4) the validity of religious and moral values.

This, in brief, is the outline of my sermon."

By REV. VERDETTE WALTERS
Martinez

I have a duty as a citizen. If I am to enjoy the privileges of citizenship, then I must accept the responsibilities. Love of country and wholesome patriotism are to me essentials of my citizenship. I cannot honestly say that I place them above all else. The eternal God is my larger loyalty for the whole of life. Nevertheless, when the Selective Service Act became a law, I registered in good conscience. Recently I volunteered my services to the local Chamber of Commerce, in event of human need arising out of any emergency such as we now face.

I have a duty as a Christian. The present struggle has not changed my mind at all about the utter futility of armed conflict. From the very start of this conflict in Europe, I have personally believed we should stay out of it. As a Christian I am compelled to be both realistic and idealistic. I must face facts, and I must keep my ideals. Now that we have been attacked, realistically I see no other human course possible than that which we are now taking as a nation. I do not mean by this to condone war. Having built our world with the understanding that we can always turn to military might and persuasion, the only practical and realistic thing we know how to do now is to follow the futile path of destruction.

I have a duty as a minister. I shall not lift nor lend my voice to words of hate toward our enemies. I shall not bless this war as a holy war, nor shall I pray for military victory. I shall earnestly hope that none will ask me to do that. I cannot believe that God is taking sides in this conflict. I can believe, however, that God is with the innocent sufferers of all lands, the sorrow-stricken, the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed. I shall not cease to pray, therefore, audibly or silently, for all these on whom the war has been forced. I shall continue to work and pray and hope for a more lasting peace than before, when it is ended.

I shall not turn my pulpit into a recruiting desk. If young men in my congregation are convinced that they should join the ranks, let them act by their own conscience.. If others cannot conscientiously do so, let them likewise follow their chosen course.

As a minister, I have a duty toward the boys who go from this church into the services. We must do whatever we can, big or small, to let these boys know that they are in our thoughts, our hopes, our prayers. Nothing can excuse me from my duty to them in this regard.

Let us know that deep down below all our differences we have a common faith. There must be no blackout of that.

On behalf of the five ministers who drew up the "Resolutions Concerning War," published in the November issue of The Pacific, I offer an apology to President Arthur C. McGiffert for signing his name to the resolutions by mistake. Dr. McGiffert approves, in general, of our declaration, but does not agree with one of our statements in particular. We regret the misunderstanding that has occurred. SIDNEY H. BUCKHAM.

By SUPERINTENDENT HARLEY H. GILL

What has the church to say that can be heard amidst the bursting of bombs and the concussions of cannons?

1. We may be sure that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ was never more needed. This world at war is the kind of a world we are here to save. Could anything show us more clearly how desperately the religion of Jesus is needed? Why should we who are commissioned to preach the Gospel expect anything different? Were it not this kind of a world, it would not need our Gospel. The fundamental moral law of the universe is at work, and for once we can see it. Civilization is shaken because it deserves to be shaken. Selfishness, prejudice, bigotry, and hatred are bearing their perfect fruit. We have sown the wind and are reaping the whirlwind. The only remedy is our Gospel. The only peace that can come on earth will be to men of good will.

2. It is our privilege to emphasize the need of a better understanding of God's will.

Had we been better Christians we would not be so perplexed. We dare not say that our testimony and conduct have always or often been Christian. This is an occasion of penitence for us all. "We dare not call the world to be like ourselves; we are already too much like the world. We can only call the world and ourselves to the feet of Christ."

3. We may be perfectly sure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will survive.

Throughout history it has thrived on stress and trouble. It was born under a dictatorship; its great advancements have been made in the face of persecution. The arm of the Lord is not shortened.

4. We are seeing the majesty and imperishability of the human soul.

Behold China and England! Conditions simply cannot be bad enough to break the

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By MR. J. P. SENTER
Pastor, Guerneville

What is the function of the Church in this war? First of all it must continue to do its everyday job with increased earnestness and effectiveness. It must be a fellowship of those who seek to live in obedience to the will of God, be of service to those in need, minister to those who rejoice and those who mourn. Above all, it must point men to the "stars that still shine above the storm."

The Church must continue to remind us that there are Japanese among us who would be American citizens if we had allowed them to be. We long ago passed laws excluding foreign-born Orientals from American citizenship, but many of them consider this their own country and are ready to live their first loyalty to the United States.

Finally, the Church must continually counsel against allowing our emotions to run away with us. It is a healthy sign of our times that we recognize that winning the war will not settle our difficulties—we must also "win the peace." We must be prepared to be generous and understanding, and we will not possess those spiritual qualities if we allow our resentment to turn into blind anger and hatred.

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By REV. NOEL J. BREED
Stockton

A war to defend one's homeland against attack is just. A war to prevent despotic nations from enforcing their rule upon the world is just. A war that is waged with hate is morally indefensible. A war that is an impersonal opposition to armed tyranny is righteous. Our enemies must be defeated completely, and that means inflicting upon them casualties and property destruction which sicken our minds, but when peace is restored we must be able to work with the Japanese and German and Italian people to build a world that will be secure against such recurring disasters.

We have an unpleasant task to perform. But now that it is forced upon us we will do our duty honorably, sacrificially, efficiently. Our enemies must not be allowed to degrade us by making us hate them.

I do not claim that God is all on our side. God is no more interested in the American and the British people than He is in the Japanese, the German, or the Italian people. Under the eye of God all the nations share in the common guilt of this war. This does not mean that we are equally responsible. It does mean that we must bear our part of the responsibility growing out of the mistakes of our foreign policy. Nevertheless, I believe that our victory will make possible a more just and righteous world order. Believing so, I can pray for victory, praying also that we may be worthy of it and always that we may use it rightly.

We must and we will perform the common tasks of all citizens. But we must not fail to see that the church more than matches up to the opportunities of the hour. Its program must not be slighted for the new tasks. This is the one defense we need above all else. If this fails, there will be a blackout that will blight all our life.

It is tremendously important that while our national energies are devoted to war, we steadily affirm our allegiance to the spiritual ideal of brotherhood, love, and peace. We must be living examples of the faith that God is our shelter and stronghold. Now, as never in our lives, is the time to demonstrate what it means to be a Christian.

From REV. JESSIE GETTY HEATH
Salida: "We have not laid the Almighty under any obligations. No promise is given in the Scriptures which does not have plainly expressed conditions. 'Be not deceived; God is not mocked.' You cannot turn up your nose at God and get away with it. A drunken, gambling, divorce-crazed nation, weakened in morale and accepting all kinds of propaganda without study of history or the laws of God—why should it not happen here?

"The greatest anxiety I have had for a long time is this: neither the depression nor the threat of war compels people to think of God. Either the church has failed the world or we are sunk so low He cannot make us hear. Doing the big military things—if as a nation we could ever get ourselves together—would win only a brutal armistice. Someone has wisely said, 'Hitlerism can only be stopped by the grace of God even if Hitler were stopped by military tactics'."

From REV. A. R. BOONE
Lodi

"On the first Sunday after the war I was concluding a series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer. I stayed by my series, using Kent's translation, but simply inserting the word 'war's' in two places. 'And help us to resist war's temptations and deliver us from war's evil.'

"Now consider what this petition becomes for us in time of war: (1) Help us stand up like good soldiers of Jesus Christ under the outer sufferings, pains and sacrifices that this war will bring upon us. Even though there are Fifth Columnists who must be discovered and punished, there should be no unfair treatment of sincere conscientious objectors. May all of us learn to pray as we bear privation and sacrifice, 'Help us to stand manfully and unflinchingly.'

"2. 'Father, our Father, help us to resist the increased temptations of wartime': (a) Let us take God and great assurances for casting out fear into our blackouts rather than a deck of cards and the funny papers. (b) May we be delivered from that kind of greed that made 23,000 millionaires in the last world war. (c) May we never claim to be the superior people of the earth. While we must stop the madman, let us not boast of retribution and vengeance. (d) Deliver us from race prejudice. (e) Deliver us from using our churches and pulpits to spread hate and sanction of war. Never let us break the fellowship of Christ and His church. So much of ministering to the homeless, crippled, diseased, and orphaned must be done that the the Church has no time to hate."

From REV. DONALD F. GAYLORD, Grace United Church, San Francisco: "I said we should remain unshaken in our Christian purpose; that 'the Church shall not officially endorse, sanction, or support a war'; but that our task is even more vitally necessary, if possible, in wartime than otherwise, which is to tend, support, and uphold the spiritual values which are the true foundations of the life of man.

"We have a Gospel which is indeed good news, even to a world at war. We have a Saviour who is the only true Saviour for the world, and our task is to hold that Saviour, his Gospel, his Spirit, his Kingdom, his revelation of God and God's eternal laws ever before our people.

"We must remain unshaken in our faith in man, even the Japanese, the Italians, the Germans. We shall remember them in pity, in their suffering, and when peace shall be made at last, we shall trust them and in every way so far as possible endeavor to fulfill Christ's teaching that we should love all enemies and pray for them which despitefully use us.

"Finally, we must remain unshaken in our faith in God, in His goodness, in the ultimate triumph of His righteousness.

"Christianity has made a difference; that while ordinary people on the street speak with venom and hatred, the attitude of Christian church folk seemed very different. They had no arrogant self-righteousness, no hatred; sorrow, concern, perhaps determination—yes, but also humility. That, I said, was and should remain the true spirit and the faith of Christians and the Christian Church."

By REV. GEORGE E. ATKINSON
Sebastopol

Christmas in war-time!—and we are confronted with the crisis of crises, such as no people faced before; but Christmas is not a time for fear or being disconcerted. God has not abdicated. He is still in His heaven, and if all's not right with the world, each of us will be doing his loyal best for God, home, and country. Let us measure up, pledging to Him our unswerving loyalty, facing the days to come with high hope and devotion to duty day by day.

By REV. ARTHUR L. RICE
Tulare

We have been slow to learn the basic principle that the welfare of one can only be attained by furthering the welfare of all. The sin of selfishness, of unwillingness to share the good things of life, a sin in which America has shared, has brought to us this terrible punishment.

A test of Christian character is our ability to think of all men, the stranger, the foreigner, as real and worthful. Starvation here, near at hand, seems terrible. It will be no less terrible in Japan when the full burden of war falls upon the already depressed and burdened Japanese people.

Already we hear in high places the plea for retaliation, for a war of hate, even of extermination. As Christians we must keep ourselves above hate. As we now sadly turn to war as the lesser of two terrible, evil alternatives we must keep in view the peace which shall follow. Hatred may help to win the war, but will unfit us to guide the peace into constructive and permanent channels.

Even the clouds of war cannot dim the joyous expectation of better things to come. We look indeed for a new world, and slowly that dream takes form.

Not pessimism but optimism is native to man. We echo the call, "Watchman, what of the night?" and we are reassured by his comforting reply, "The morning cometh." No matter how dark the night, how interminably long, God is still in command. The morning cometh.

By REV. WILLIS L. GOLDSMITH
Porterville

The only kind of preaching that allays fears is that which consists of good news, especially this, that human beings like you and me have a Saviour. He is still the world's best good news and has done more to stop people from being afraid than anything else that has ever happened. The most effective sermon for calming troubled and anxious persons is not one that keeps reiterating admonitions against fear. It is one that recites sure grounds of confidence.

What will permanently allay the fear of this and other congregations is not the death of Hitler but the birth of the Saviour, not news that the Axis powers have been overthrown but good tidings concerning the sure progress of God's Kingdom. Above all, it will be the assurance that this Kingdom has begun in us as we worship in spirit and in truth.

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human spirit. The worse things become, the more brightly shines the soul of man.

5. Again and yet again we are able to see how God works through human suffering. Families will suffer bereavement, are suffering it. Privation, want, and distress will be rampant. One may surely see that through suffering, yea, the suffering of the innocent, much good comes about. That is the central thing about our Christ—His vicarious suffering. Those that have spoken the needed word in any age have been those who have suffered most.

6. We are members of one another. That, of course, is the heart of the teachings of Jesus. We are in a war and we shall kill Germans, Italians, and Japanese, but those men are our brothers. There are Christians in those lands, praying as we shall pray, that the bond of fellowship will not be broken. There are folk in our midst, "aliens" we call them, who at heart are as loyal as we. May it be that we shall never be guilty of claiming God for ourselves to the exclusion of others. He is not a tribal chieftain, but is one God, the Father of us all.

7. We shall continue to declare that the real values are those of the self, the personality. Life is precious. We must assert it even when young men are killed by the hundred thousand. Perhaps the loss of the belief in immortality in certain quarters is responsible for the cheapening of life which war reveals. Men are creatures of eternal worth, worthy to become sons of God.

8.. Our Christian faith in a day like this is not an escape from the universe but of its very structure. Again and again great illuminations have broken through into history. One thinks of Moses, Hosea, Jeremiah, and most certainly of Jesus. I dare to believe that out of this furnace there may come a world civilization.

9. It is commonplace, but it is highly important to say that now is the time to plan and work for a just and durable peace. The days of isolation are over. This world is going to be one world, either with a dictator sitting at the helm with power over the acts, the beliefs, the faiths, even the lives of men, or it will be a cooperative society of free men of good will. The choice is ours. The latter way is the way of sacrifice and the surrender of selfish interests. May we have the courage to carry through.

10. We may surely believe that the church still has the method for bringing about world understanding. Good will is like a seed or a cell of an organism. With all of the hatred that is rampant, this is a far better world than it would have been had the cells of good will never been planted. We shall continue to plant until the whole is leavened.

By REV. TORRANCE PHELPS
Sacramento

Christianity has a vital stake in the triumph of Democracy. The Totalitarian ideology repudiates the essentials of our religion, the freedom of the soul and the competency of the individual, as well as faith in God.

If Democracy is to survive, however, we must have vastly more devotion to the Christianity which produces it. Many ask, Why didn't Christianity prevent the war? As a rule, those who echo this plaint never gave a dollar to promote the Gospel! About ten per cent of the Protestant population of our county give time or money to support organized Christianity. What do these critics expect if only ten per cent work for religion, while ninety per cent are absorbed in selfish pursuits?

The main business henceforth of loyal citizens as well as Christians must be to promote organized Christianity with all their strength, time, and means.

PORT CHICAGO. The social hall was nearly completed before all volunteer labor was taken for air warden duty. Doors, windows, and plyboard walls are being installed. Electricians and plumbers have donated their services. On Christmas eve the choir went caroling. New teachers have joined the Sunday School. Mr. Sherwood Wirt is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED. The junior high school choir has made its appearance, much to the delight of the pastor, Rev. Donald F. Gaylord, and his people. The Christmas programs brought out splendid dramatic talent. Watch night service was held New Year's Eve. Mr. Gaylord was chaplain at the Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference.

PORTERVILLE. Eleven new members were received on Christmas Sunday. The church building was open for prayer on New Year's Day, with mimeographed suggesions for prayer and meditation available. At noon and at six o'clock the pastor, Rev. Willis L. Goldsmith, conducted a season of prayer.

MARTINEZ. Seventy-five children, young people and adults participated in the Christmas vesper candlelighting service. This is the third year in which such a service has been held. Rev. Verdette Walters is pastor.

PITTSBURG. Day of Prayer was observed on New Year's Day, as requested by the President. A ritual of repentance was prepared by the pastor, Rev. Elmer W. Benedict.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

SEBASTOPOL. Eighteen persons united with the church on Christmas Sunday, two by letter and sixteen by confession. A Sunday School paper is being published by one of the boys of the school, full of news and informing articles.

In preparing for the closing of his pastorate, Rev. George E. Atkinson notes the following: Sebastopol is one of fifty churches in the country that have made a consistent gain in church attendance for five consecutive years. It is unique in having instituted an annual church service for elderly people, having had a service for the Golden Wedding Club for twelve years. The young people of the church started the community Easter morning sunrise service. The pastor has been secretary of the Red Cross ten years, member of the Chamber of Commerce for twelve years, on its board for two terms, and member of the Committee of Boy Scouts for twelve years, and is one of five Californians officially connected with the Scout movement since 1910.

OROVILLE. Rev. C. C. Champlin has at last listened to the call of the church and has become pastor. The Every Member Canvass has resulted in a 60 per cent lift in the financial strength of the church. The suggestions made by Rev. Harry T. Stock in his institute are being put into immediate effect, beginning with a brand-new cradle roll. Twenty-five members of the new Pilgrim Fellowship sang carols at twenty-five or more homes. At least twenty members of the church are working as observers in the community defense plans.

OAKLAND, FIRST. For ten minutes before the morning service on Christmas Sunday the choir sang carols on the steps outside the church. Rev. Clarence Reidenbach's sermon was on "Christ, the Same Forever." Offering was taken for War Victims and Services. Sixty young people in a chartered bus and several autos went in the evening to the homes of shut-ins for caroling. Christmas baskets were given to certain families. Dean Charles R. Brown will supply the pulpit the last three Sundays of June and the first Sunday of July.

SAN JOSE. On a recent Sunday morning the pastor, Rev. Stephen Peabody, preached on the music and the worship of the Russians. The music at the service was entirely that of Tschaikowsky, both instrumental and vocal, with guest soloists supplementing the choir.

RIPON. Six new members were received into the church not long ago. A 50 per cent increase in attendance was the result of Loyalty Month. Mrs. A. C. Hacke, wife of the pastor, was speaker at the December meeting of the Federation of Congregational Women.

RIO VISTA. Rev. Victor H. Morgan has set up the preparedness and relief program for Rio Vista, and then was given the job of coordinating all the disaster plans for Solano County. This is a particular and important post because of possible damage at Vallejo and Benicia.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCEAN VIEW. Seven members were received into fellowship, two by letter and five on confession of faith. Sunday evening services have been started. A calling committee of young people, visiting in homes, has been active. Eugene Sill is pastor.

TULARE. Christmas Sunday was truly a wonderful day, with beautiful decorations and splendid music in the morning. Many people could not find seats for the afternoon candlelight service. Rev. Arthur L. Rice is pastor.

EUREKA. Six new members were received the last Sunday of November. Rev. Charles H. Hudson's resignation was overruled by the church and he has consented to remain. Many residents of the community joined with the church in earnest request that he continue. Announcement was made from New York that the American Arbitration Association, through its president, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, has appointed Mr. Hudson to the National Panel of Arbitrators of the Association. This Association will have offices in thirty-one key cities, and has 8,000 citizens in more than 1,600 localities available to act as arbitrators in commercial and industrial disputes. Under his leadership, the basement of the church is being made available to the public in case of disaster, and is being protected by barricades of sandbags, the work being done by the Pilgrim Fellowship.

SAN MATEO. Ernest Besig of the Civil Liberties Union was speaker at the seventh church night, which closed the autumn series. The monthly church night meetings will be resumed in February. Floodlights have been installed, adding very much to the attractiveness of the beautiful church building. The peninsula Little Theater presented a play, "The Miracle of the Nativity," at this church and also at the Burlingame Baptist Church during Advent. A garden is being developed on the church grounds, where flowers will be grown for altar decorations. Rev. Sidney H. Buckham is pastor.

REDWOOD CITY. All Christmas services were well attended. The Every Member Canvass was a success, despite its occurrence upon the tragic Sunday, December 7. The building has been offered as an emergency shelter. At the annual dinner and meeting plans will be laid for making the coming year a worthy introduction to the eightieth birthday of the church next November. The Red Cross sewing meetings of the women's group are well attended and productive. Rev. Charles E. Ward is pastor.

SAN CARLOS. A large painting, eight by fourteen feet, of the Manger Scene was given to the church for Christmas. It was exhibited on five evenings with musical meditations by the organists. A college age group of young people has been started. A Christmas stocking was presented to Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Loken, filled with coins, in token of the appreciation of their services to the church and community.

SARATOGA. At the very time Japanese planes were attacking Hawaii, this church was holding an impressive ceremony of ground-breaking for the new building unit. Mr. J. T. Richards lifted the first shovelful of earth. The contract for excavation and concrete work, including walks for the cloisters and steps, has been signed. Rev. Fred R. Morrow is pastor.

AUBURN. In most respects the church is doing better than a year ago. The Sunday School is larger, and the church attendance has increased about one-fourth. The church has been recarpeted, and the interior has been arranged so that there is now a chancel. New Pilgrim Hymnals are being purchased. Rev. Stewart E. Locke is pastor.

ALTURAS. Rev. Theodore Schulz, the pastor, served as chairman of the local Red Cross roll call. Monthly meetings of Sunday School teachers are being held. The annual Christmas entertainment was given on the Sunday evening preceding Christmas, and a fine group of boys and girls were trained for Christmas carolling.

LODI. As a preliminary to the financial canvass, members and supporters of the church were given the privilege of making pledges in advance and having their names appear on an honor roll in a special issue of the bulletin. One hundred twenty-four pledges were made, totalling $3,393. In addition to this there are certain gifts from groups in the church, making $1,000 more, so that less than $1,000 was needed to be raised at the canvass itself. Preparatory letters with unique illustrations were sent out, outlining the plan. The church building will be used as a hospital auxiliary in case of need. Four young people attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference. Rev. A. R. Boone is pastor.

CALAVERAS COUNTY. The youth programs in both Murphys and Angels Camp are handicapped by the entrance of young men into the armed forces and defense work. Rev. John G. Dickey has been drafted for community defense work, in particular the committee rationing food supplies and the sale of defense bonds. The attendance at the Christmas program at Angels Camp was the largest that has come together during the present pastorate for any occasion. Sunday Schools at White Pines and Sheep Ranch have been closed because the school trustees have made the building unavailable.

RENO, NEVADA. Twenty-eight new members were received on Harvest Home Sunday. This church is one of the first in our fellowship to feel the loss of a young man's making the supreme sacrifice in the war, Eric Reed Young. Day of Prayer was observed on New Year's and the church was open for the day, with devotional music at stated periods. Rev. William Moll Case, the pastor, has made available books from his library from which people who enter the church may borrow.

SOQUEL. The great Christmas oratorio, "The Messiah," was presented in recordings on a Sunday evening prior to Christmas. There were also beautiful colored slides of madonnas. A dramatic presentation entitled "The Nativity" was given on Christmas Sunday evening. The senior group of young people are discussing "The Prophets and Problems of Life" under the leadership of Rev. T. Davis Preston, the pastor.

ALAMEDA. Rev. Gail Cleland preached his farewell sermon the last Sunday of December, and will return to his work as Chaplain at Fort MacArthur. Rev. Robert Cleland, who has been resident pastor during 1941, has accepted a call to Ramona, California. Professor C. C. McCown of Berkeley and Professor James Muilenburg will continue in pulpit ministry while the church completes negotiations for a new minister.

TRINITY COUNTY. Rev. P. N. Bennett has been made a member of the county defense council. A lovely marriage ceremony was performed in the church at Hayfork. The very plain church building had been decorated beautifully. The bride's mother was a former teacher in Hayfork but is now living in Peoria, Ill. The father came by plane for the wedding.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH. Fifteen new members were received at the December communion. Mrs. Dorothy Bennett has resigned after several years as Director of Religious Education, and Miss Dorothea Darch has been appointed to the position beginning January 1. Miss Mary Coxhead, who has been studying in Chicago, has returned to Oakland. Rev. Robert Inglis is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST. After many months of consideration and discussion the church has voted to discontinue the federation with the Temple Methodist Church. As a result, on Sunday, December 21, the Temple Methodist began holding its services in the Native Sons Auditorium and First Congregational resumed responsibility for services and program in its own building, with Rev. Jason Noble Pierce as pastor. Because of the impossibility of making the skylights of the building light-proof, the evening service has been moved to 4 p. m. The building is being offered to the community as a meeting place for Red Cross and for instruction in defense.

FRESNO, FIRST. Three special services were held on Christmas Sunday. Attendance in the morning was 258. The Sunday School program was held at ten o'clock, and at 7:45 an evening of music featuring the Christmas oratorio of Saint-Saens was given by the choir. The parish joined in an annual Christmas dinner to honor officers, committee members, Church School teachers, and other workers. Young people's clubs went caroling to the county hospital and to the homes of those who are sick and shut in. Rev. John H. Gregg spoke at the Lion's Club, the Kiwanis Club, and to the County Bar Association.

PALO ALTO. Following a delightful New England custom, Rev. and Mrs. Augustine Jones kept "open house" on New Year's Day to the parish and their friends. The women of the church are divided into six groups and the officers of each group assisted during the afternoon, some of the college women sharing in the responsibility. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have built a new home and there were many expressions of appreciation over its delightful arrangements. A hundred and fifty looked in during the afternoon.

PACIFIC GROVE. As a part of the 50th anniversary celebration, the Philathea Bible Class had an appropriate part. Of all of the societies of the church, it has existed the longest, having been organized by Mr. Silas W. Mack in 1907. Two hundred girls of high school age have been enrolled at least one year during its history. Mr. and Mrs. Mack held a reception for all present and former members, which was largely attended.

BERKELEY, KENSINGTON. A house-to-house visitation is being made by a student of Pacific School of Religion, whereby personal invitations are extended for the Sunday afternoon vesper services which are in charge of Pierson Parker of Berkeley North Church. Christmas programs were well carried out and well attended under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dimock, who are in charge of the House.

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BERKELEY CALIFORNIA

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Edited by Miss Helen M. Perkins

ANNUAL MEETING

As announced last month, the Annual Meeting of the Federation will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 15 and 16, at the Alameda church, corner of Chestnut and Central Streets. The first session will open at 2:00 o'clock Thursday afternoon, and the Friday meeting will begin at 10:15. Due to the possibility of a black-out, there will be NO evening meeting. Thursday afternoon the speaker will be Dr. James Muilenburg, who has been the preacher at the Alameda church. His subject will be: "What Is God Doing?" There will be a digest of secretarial reports, and the session will be closed with an hour of worship led by Rev. Arthur Casaday of Mill Valley. There will be no dinner. Friday morning will be taken up with business, a symposium on the value of federation, led by Mrs. Augustine Jones of Palo Alto, and then election of officers. Luncheon will be served in the church at a cost of forty cents. Mrs. James Muilenburg will preside. Reservations MUST be made by Tuesday noon, with Mrs. T. E. Borden, 2153 Clinton Ave., Alameda. Phone: Lakehurst 2-5553. In the afternoon there will be an address by Mrs. Harry Leonard, State Chairman of Bible Literature of the California Federation of Women's Clubs. The closing service of consecration, followed by the Benediction, will be given by our Superintendent, Dr. Harley H. Gill. The general theme of the meeting is taken from John 17:19, "I sanctify myself that they also may be sanctified." Programs will be in the hands of the Commissioners before this issue of The Pacific comes out.

THANK OFFERING

The Conference reports that the Thank Offering is in a fair way to reach the $1,700 which we set as our goal for this year. That is cheering news, especially in view of a letter recently received from our President, Mrs. R. A. Fuller, from Miss Helen Frances Smith of the National Home Boards, who has just returned from a visit to our newest project, the little hospital at Grants, New Mexico. The following are excerpts from that letter:

"I met our new nurse, Miss Henrietta Seeger, for the first time. . . . Immediately I knew she was the right person in the right place. She looks as if she would be equal to any emergency. Not long ago she was left alone at the hospital for five days. . . . During this time there were eleven automobile accident cases brought in, and two babies were born. Miss Seeger took care of all cases in a truly remarkable way." At another time Miss Seeger was alone when a premature baby was born. "It was necessary to improvise an incubator out of a basket, hot water bottles, and some blankets. The little mite was beginning to thrive when I was there. I wondered what might have been its fate if the good women in several states had not helped us to maintain a resident nurse at Grants! . . . But we are confronted with a financial problem as we plan for the future. As you know, the Northern California Thank-offering gifts helped us to place Miss Seeger at Grants Hospital. . . . We think we have sufficient money to keep her until the end of our current fiscal year, May 31, 1942. After that it will depend largely upon the continuance of the gifts whether we can keep her at the hospital. Personally I do not see how we could continue this medical service without a resident nurse on the staff. And as you know, it is the only hospital between Albuquerque and Gallup, a distance of 160 miles. . . . I truly think it is one of our neediest fields. . . . We hope very much that you will choose to continue Grants Hospital as the object of your Thank-offering gifts for some time to come."

The following is an excerpt from a report by Miss Seeger herself: "I have been going with Dr. Cornelius to the clinics at Cuberto, Seboyetta, San Mateo, and, of course, here at Grants. But this month I am going to begin holding clinics of my own in these towns, two weeks after Dr. Cornelius has his. In this way we can help more people and keep in closer touch with the ones we are taking care of. . . . It has been raining a great deal the past month, and we are kept busy trying to see that the patients and beds are out from under the leaking places in the roof. It is getting worse all the time. We cannot use the first ward at all because it leaks so badly, so we have two beds in the hall."

Before we leave Miss Seeger, it is interesting to note that she is a graduate of Schauffler College in Cleveland, which is another of our projects, though not a Thank-offering one.

UNITED COUNCIL

Across the continent, in Atlantic City, on December 11-13, there was a meeting of all interdenominational Protestant women's groups. Mrs. E. E. McClintock and Mrs. W. H. Medlicott wrote to Mrs. Fuller concerning this: "As members of a Constituting Convention we have just participated in a vote forming a United Council of Church Women. In the midst of chaos, ten million women joined hands and hearts working for world community based on the Christian gospel. . . . We bespeak your loyal devotion."

GROUP WORSHIP

Just after the summer recess, Mrs. A. V. Dunn presented a paper on effective worship in women's church groups, to which the editor has long wished to give a wider hearing. At the beginning of a new year, she passes on to you a few of the salient points:

1. Worship should not be used as a mere introduction to a speech or a program. It is an end in itself, and is not met simply by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer. Its purpose is to secure courage to go out into life and its problems.

2. Things to avoid in a worship service: seating late comers; unnecessary noise or interruptions; inappropriate music; elaborate introductions or apologies; prosiness or stereotyped devotionals; last-minute preparations.

3. Things to consider: a carefully prepared leader (help inexperienced leaders); a variety of materials, technique and leadership; greater use of the Bible, hymns, and other materials furnished by church or Conference; poetry, pictures, music, stories, drama; some unison work in hymn, prayer, litany or psalm, that all may have some part; a quiet room; soft music while the women are gathering, to set the tone; a definite theme correlated with the program for the day.

GIFT BOXES

From Santa Clara Association come reports of boxes of gifts, including handkerchiefs, combs, Christmas cards and doilies, sent to fields all the way from Ellis Island to China. In the acknowledgments, especial appreciation was expressed for the thoughtful inclusion of gifts to pastor, director, nurse, or other leader, whom, perhaps, we sometimes overlook in our interest in their charges.

SALIDA. This church is closing the year with money in the treasury, and has more than met its benevolence apportionment. A number of new members will be received at the January communion. Rev. Jessie Getty Heath, pastor, was remembered in many happy ways at Christmas time.

Well Done, P.F.Y.P:

The Winter Young People's Conference, held December 29 to 31, proved to be a high-water mark for Northern California Pilgrim Fellowship.

The total registration was 205, of which 187 were full time and 18 part time. There were 136 of high school age and 38 of college age, ten ministers, and several other adult leaders. First Church, Berkeley, which was the host church, had the largest number but, because their attendance required no travel, eliminated themselves from consideration for the prizes. The Campbell church with 24 full-time registered young people carried off the honors. Other churches having notable attendance were Oakland Plymouth with 12, San Francisco Grace United with 10, Saratoga with 9, and Fairfax with 8.

Rev. William W. Meyer of Fairfax was the director, Field Secretary E. T. Sherman was the registrar, Rev. Donald F. Gaylord was chaplain, and Prof. E. V. Tenney was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Scott Haymond was chairman of local arrangements. Many other ministers and lay people participated in the organization of the conference and in the discussion groups, as well as in special addresses. The theme of the conference was "Fortifying for the Future."

OAKLAND, PILGRIM. Bad weather continues to prevent the completion of the foundations of the church, which has been moved, and has greatly handicapped the work, but Rev. Harvey Miller, pastor, and his helpers refuse to be discouraged. All are looking forward to an increase of interest when the work is finally completed.

FAIRFAX. Arrangements have been made for blackouts so that all evening activities can continue. The Christmas party and pageant and the Christmas eve candlelight service were well attended. A total of $212 has been paid during the year on the building debt. Rev. William Meyer, the pastor, was director of the Pilgrim Fellowship Winter Conference.

LODI, EBENEZER. 1941 was an exceptional year of progress. Improvements in the building at a cost of $8,000 were made, the missionary offering was $100 larger than a year ago, and the church is coming to self-support. Fifty-seven new members were added. Rev. F. W. Gross is pastor.

STOCKTON. The church has offered its facilities to the Red Cross, and Pilgrim Hall will be a center for that work in the surrounding section of the city. The Christmas eve midnight candlelight service was the most beautiful service of the year. Rev. Noel J. Breed is pastor.

PASTORS MEET

The announcements are out for a unusually rich and helpful program a the Pastoral Conference, sponsored by th E. T. Earl Foundation and the Pacifi School of Religion. The dates will b February 17 to 19.

Speakers will include Dr. Robert I Calhoun, Yale Divinity School; Dr. How ard Chandler Robbins, General Theologi cal Seminary; Dr. H. Shelton Smith, Di vinity School of Duke University; Dr Mark A. Dawber, Home Missions Coun cil; Dr. Harry T. Stock, Christian Educa tion, Congregational Home Board; Dr E. E. Aubrey, University of Chicago; Rev Deane Edwards, Federal Council; Dr Robert G. McCutchan, School of Music De Pauw University; and members of th faculty of Pacific School of Religion.

Congregational pastors will gather fo luncheon, as usual, on Wednesday noon February 18.

CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Victor H. Morgan was principa and Rev. E. L. Spuller was on the facult of the Institute for Boy Scouts of th Golden Empire Council, which was hel at Sacramento Junior College. The chair man of the Council, Mr. H. M. Skidmore is a layman in our Sacramento church.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER. On Christ mas Sunday members of the congrega tion carried special Christmas gifts whic were deposited in a manger. Fifty-on new members were received in the Christ mas class, and two former members wer reinstated. Rev. Torrance Phelps is pasto

NILES. Rev. Richard C. Day, who ha been ill, has been convalescing at th home of his daughter in Southern Cali fornia. The pulpit has been cared for b three members of the Hayward Church by Field Secretary Sherman, and by Su perintendent Gill.

BERKELEY, CHINESE. The Christ mas program was held following th church service on Christmas Sunday. Dr B. C. Wong is pastor.

SANTA CRUZ. An aggregate of thousand people attended the services o Christmas Sunday. Rev. H. S. Mahood i pastor.

HAYWARD. Members of this church cared for the preaching services at Nile for three Sundays during December. Rev Godfrey Matthews is pastor.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Word comes from the office of the Gen eral Council that the meeting of th Council which was scheduled for Dart mouth College will have to be moved else where. The war emergency has caused the colege to alter its plans greatly. D Horton's office states that thus far n serious consideration is being given t postponing or abandoning the meeting.

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